

## Message Text

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67

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: PARTY CHANGES IN TBILISI

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. GEORGIAN PARTY BOSS SHEVARDNADZE PRESIDED OVER A GENTLE PURGE OF THE TBILISI CITY PARTY ORGANIZATION ON JANUARY 9. GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY P.G. GILASHVILI WAS REPLACED BY T. N. MENTESHASHVILI AND MOVED TO THE CEREMONIAL POST OF GEORGIAN PRESIDENT. THE SHAKEUP CONTINUES SHEVARDNADZE'S EFFORT TO CLEAR AWAY THE ASSOCIATES OF FORMER GEORGIAN PARTY LEADER V. P. MZHAVANADZE. THE REPUBLIC NEWSPAPER ZARYA VOSTOKA PUBLISHED A LONG ACCOUNT OF THE GORKOM'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OR TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP BUT DID NOT SINGLE ANYONE OUT FOR SPECIFIC CRITICISM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE 36 TH CONFERENCE OF THE TBILISI PARTY ORGANIZATION DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THE GEORGIAN STYLE OF POLITICS, ESCHEWING THE HEAVY HANDED PURGE IN FAVOR OF THE ART OF WHEELING, DEALING, SURVIVING, AND COVERING UP. GEORGIAN PARTY BOSS SHEVARDNADZE PRESIDED OVER THE REMOVAL ON JANUARY 9 OF TBILISI GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY P. G. GILASHVILI AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY T. N. MENTESHASHVILI. ALTHOUGH THE TBILISI GORKOM WAS CRITICIZED FOR NUMEROUS SHORTCOMINGS, GILASHVILI WAS WAFTED UPSTAIRS TO THE CEREMONIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POST OF GEORGIAN PRESIDENT, WHILE THE LONG-TIME INCUMBENT

G. S. DZOTSENIDZE, WAS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER UNSPECIFIED WORK.

3. DZOTSENIDZE THUS NO LONGER OCCUPIES THE EX OFFICIO POST AS ONE OF THE 15 DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET, A POST HE HAS HELD SINCE 1959. EARLIER, ON DECEMBER 17, SHEVARDNADZE GOT RID OF THE FORMER PREMIER G. D. DZAVAKHISHVILI, A HOLDOVER SINCE 1953. THE SHAKEUP IS EVIDENTLY PART OF SHEVARDNADZE'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO CLEAR AWAY THE ASSOCIATES OF FORMER GEORGIAN PARTY LEADER V. P. MZHAVANADZE.

4. GILASHVILI'S REMOVAL WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY A LENGTHY CRITICAL ACCOUNT IN JANUARY 11 ZARYA VOSTOKA DESCRIBING THE FAILURE OF THE TBILISI PARTY ORGANIZATION TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OR TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TO THE PRIMARY PARTY UNITS, THE CITY GOVERNMENT, AND VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS. BUT THE REMOVAL OF GILASHVILI UP RATHER THAN OUT CONVENIENTLY PRECLUDED THE AIRING OF SPECIFIC CHARGES, OR OF SUBJECTING GILASHVILI OR HIS ASSOCIATES TO DIRECT CRITICISM. ACCORDINGLY, ZARYA VOSTOKA'S ACCOUNT IS SINGULARLY OPAQUE. WHILE PRAISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MANY INDIVIDUALS, IT DOES NOT SINGLE OUT ANYONE FOR SPECIFIC CRITICISM; THE SHORTCOMINGS ARE DESCRIBED IN STUDIOUSLY GENERAL LANGUAGE, WITH NO FINGER-POINTING.

5. THE CRITICISM CLOSEST TO THE TARGET WAS LEVELED BEFORE, RATHER THAN AFTER THE CONFERENCE. JANUARY 9 ZARYA VOSTOKA EDITORIALIZED THAT "...THE RESULTS OF THE WORK FOR THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER, IF THE TBILISI GORKOM, PARTY RAYKOMS, AND THEIR APPARATUS AND AKTIVS COULD HAVE MANAGED TO OVERCOME COMPLETELY THE ELEMENTS OF FORMALISM IN PARTY WORK, TO PLACE ON A FIRM FOOTING THE TASK OF MONITORING AND ORGANIZING WORK, AND TO STRUGGLE MORE DECISIVELY WITH BUREAUCRATS, BRIBE TAKERS, AND EMBEZZLERS OF PEOPLES' PROPERTY, WHO HAVE ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES IN VARIOUS ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CITY."

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